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Facts and Faith

(By Rev. Calvin Chambers)

SPIRITUAL VICTORY

All of us want to live 'on top'. We want to be able to master life in such a way, that our days are full of buoyancy and zest. Yet, we find that there are so many things which work against us, to pull us down and to keep us in the "valley" instead of on the "mountain." Is there any solution to our problem? Is there any way to overcome this "downward drag?"

The philosophy of any army worth its salt is "know your enemy." This applies equally well to us in the battle of life. We must know the form in which the enemy of our souls is liable to attack us. Those of you who have read C. S. Lewis's famous little book 'Screwtape Letters' (you can pick it up in paper back covers in most drug stores now) will know that the devices of the evil one are many and varied. Christian victory is only maintained at the cost of perpetual vigilance and energetic resistance.

Our Lord pointed up the need for constant vigilance when He encouraged His disciples to "watch and pray that ye enter not into temptation." Prayerlessness is one of the weak spots in the life of Christendom today. The old prayer meeting of grandfathers' time seems to have vanished in most churches. Yet, there has been a reawakening in recent years to the power generated in small intercession groups, where people meet together for study, fellowship and prayer. If we are going to wage an effective campaign against the enemy of spiritual life, we must not talk about prayer, or agree that it is a good thing. We must pray. Personal daily prayer and group prayer are absolutely essential to anyone who wants to know power in his life for creative living.

In Paul's letter to the Ephesians, in chapter six, he lists some of the pieces of armour which the Christian should wear in his fight against evil. There must be the helmet of salvation, which simply means trust in God as a great deliverer from sin. There must be the breastplate of righteousness, which comes from having a right relationship with God through faith in Jesus Christ. The shield of faith is indispensable to one who wants to win the victory, and John reminds us "this is the victory which overcomes the world, even your faith." We also need the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God. Jesus overcame the tempter's power in the wilderness because he was conscious of the power of God's word to quell the attacks of the enemy. He answered every temptation with a verse from the Old Testament Scriptures. The psalmist said, "Thy word have I hid in my heart that I might not sin against Thee." Knowledge of God's truth contained in His word, is a vital and important weapon in Christian warfare.

As you see, Christian victory is not maintained easily. The Christian life is not a bed of roses. It is a vigorous combat in which we pit ourselves against the enemy of all that is good and true. But not in our own strength. We can only succeed when we follow Him, who has already won the victory, and offers the same to us as we trust Him to work in and through us.

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PAUL DELMER

ON THE THRESHOLD OF SPACE



ON OCTOBER 5, 1957, man stepped onto the threshold of space: Sputnik — a 184-pound man-made moon twenty-two and a half inches in diameter — was sent hurtling into an orbit around the earth by Russian scientists. Travelling at a speed of 18,000 miles an hour, it made a complete trip around the earth in 96 minutes. On November 3rd, Sputnik II — also known as Mutnik — a half-ton satellite carrying a live dog, was hurled 1,055 miles into space. The biggest and blackest type since World War II bannered the news; the bleep-bleep-bleep of the satellite radios heralded a new era — man had stepped onto the threshold of space.

After thousands of years, earth was firing back at the universe. Since its history began, our defenceless world has been bombarded from outer space with countless unmanned missiles, better known as meteors or shooting stars. Some have made lake-sized depressions on the face of our globe. Meanwhile man has helplessly stood by. But not so any more. Man is firing salvos back in earnest, returning the barrage from outer space. Triggered by scientists, fiery spouts are now coring through our atmosphere, catapulting point blank at the universe the finned missiles we call rockets. Following these instrument laden rockets into space are electronic eyes and ears which provide information to the 10,000 scientists who are masterminding the global and spatial investigations of the nations on this planet. From the earth satellites scientists will learn much we do not know about the sun, its effect on our weather, the exact geography of the earth, temperatures in space, the number of meteors, amounts of cosmic dust, effects of cosmic rays, influences of magnetism, and other factors that will bear on further conquests of space, on military defence, and on human comfort and economy.

The assurance with which man is counting on space travel is suggested in a statement by the Douglas Aircraft Corporation: "Space travel, a dream five years ago, is now so near reality that lunar landings are predicted by the end of this century." And again, "With the possibility of interplanetary flight accepted by engineers, man looks to outer space, and is speculating on new power sources needed to get him there. A predicted break-through is the plasma engine, which will harness ions or light itself to drive aircraft near 186,000 miles per second."

These reports in the world's press indicate man is standing on the border of the space frontier ready to step over. It is a revolutionary development, still strange to contemplate, that man by his own ingenuity might end his confinement to earth. The excitement it offers in fields of navigation, exploration, and discovery, the problems it poses politically and militarily, the complexity it will add to life, increasing mental and emotional tensions, and the question it raises of universal morals with man footloose among the planets — these are all overwhelming to the mind.

The New York Times comment on all this is appropriate in this strange and fearsome hour: "Will we be happier for seeing the other side of the moon, or strolling in the meadows of Mars? The greatest adventure of all is not to go to the moon or to explore the rings of Saturn. It is rather to understand the heart and soul of man, and to turn away from wrath and destruction toward creativeness and brotherly love." Today, even Khrushchov appears to recognize this fact.

ON THE LOCAL FRONT this week, the most important development is that the new Woolworth store on Yonge street is now finalizing preparations for its opening next week. It will add much to the interest of Yonge Street as a popular shopping centre. I have heard remarks to the effect it would be wonderful if the town would once a month direct traffic for a day, around the town, clearing Yonge Street entirely of vehicles from Elgin Mills to Markham Road. Traffic could be directed along Markham, Bayview and Elgin Mills. Everybody agrees it would be wonderful to shop on Yonge Street and to be able to cross and recross the road without worrying about traffic. The plan has been operated successfully in other areas — why not here?

Next week, Richmond Heights Plaza will present another three dollar days. Watch "The Liberal" for full details next Thursday. Other interesting projects are being planned for different parts of the town. Make it a point of getting your local paper early to keep up with the news of all these developments. If you don't already receive "The Liberal", telephone TU. 4-1105 with your name and address for carrier delivery to be commenced immediately.

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Yongehurst P.O. Investigation

The mystery of the Yongehurst Post Office deepens with deeper investigation. The Post Office Department has now ordered an enquiry. Ottawa wants to know the facts. This is at least an indication that at last the complaints of local residents and patrons of the Yongehurst Post Office are being felt in the proper quarters after first being ignored.

As appears in a report elsewhere in this issue, the Postmaster-General has personally replied to Mrs. Ethel Costoff's complaint regarding the change of location of the Post Office which was effected without proper written notice, with very short verbal notice, and in a manner which residents have since described as "with unseemly haste".

The Postmaster-General appears to fall back on the excuse that when Mr. Costoff resigned, there were only two applicants. These were Mrs. Costoff and Mr. James Craigie. The Postmaster-General states that in view of the fact Mrs. Costoff was of an age which made her ineligible for consideration, the Post Office Department had no choice but to appoint the only other applicant. The appointment of Mr. Craigie necessitated a change of location. The whole case of the Department therefore, now appears to rest on this statement of facts. But can it bear investigation?

First of all everybody in the district is puzzled as to why, when Mrs. Thomas who is the owner of the Costoff Store and who is the daughter of Mrs. Costoff and sister to the former postmaster applied for the appointment verbally to the visiting inspector, the inspector suggested that Mrs. Ethel Costoff because of a record of experience in the post office in Toronto and Willowdale would be a more suitable candidate acceptable to the Department. The family went along with the inspector's suggestion and Mrs. Costoff's name went forward. Two officials subsequently visited the Costoff Store and swore Mrs. Costoff in as postmistress. She administered the Yongehurst Post Office efficiently for several weeks. Then — out of the blue, without warning or notice, the same inspector who had suggested Mrs. Costoff's name be sent forward, called on Mr. Craigie, asked how soon he could take over, was advised that Mr. Craigie could take over in ten days, and ten days later in the now locally famous transfer described as "it's going — it's gone", the post office location was switched to Craigie's Store. What people want to know is why did the inspector suggest Mrs. Costoff when he must have been aware that her age made her ineligible for the appointment, whereas the daughter, Mrs. Thomas, was eminently suitable and whose appointment

would not have necessitated a change in the location and the upset to so many residents which has since occurred? Secondly, the same people and thousands of readers of this journal who have followed the controversy, want to know, where and when was the vacancy advertised? Mr. Craigie was apparently advised of an advertisement which no one has seen and which has not since been traced.

The Post Office Department should clear this matter up. Was the vacancy advertised, and if so, where and when and in what form? If it was advertised, why was the advertisement not brought to the attention of Mrs. Costoff and her daughter? If there was an advertisement and if it had been brought to the attention of the Costoff family, there would still have been time for Mrs. Thomas to make a written application. She was not given an opportunity. Why? Finally people want to know, when Mrs. Costoff was apparently accepted and sworn in, why was she not advised then, as custom and courtesy would demand, that her appointment was merely a temporary measure? This is perhaps the strangest thing in a very strange case. Had this been indicated at the time, Mrs. Costoff would not have accepted the appointment and Mrs. Thomas' name would have gone forward instead. Certainly the deeper we delve into this matter, the deeper the mystery becomes. Everything else aside it is clear the majority of residents find the Costoff Store the more convenient location and between Mrs. Thomas and Mr. Craigie there is no difference so far as experience is concerned. Mrs. Thomas would have the advantage that her mother who is an experienced and efficient post office worker is available to assist her. There can be no justification for excluding Mrs. Thomas from the appointment. Before the winter sets in, the patrons of the post office wish to see it restored to its former entirely satisfactory location.

The Department is now at last investigating the matter and it is to be hoped that it will reach this same conclusion. There must be sympathy for Mr. Craigie who has apparently become innocently embroiled in the Post Office Department's blunder. However, nothing should prevent the restoration to the most suitable location, of an office which never should have been transferred. Such restoration would in no way imply any reflection upon Mr. Craigie. It is simply a matter of the convenience of the greatest number of people involved. With the future development of subdivisions to the west and south of Craigie's store there may well be a strong case at a future date for a second post office in the area, which could be located in his store.

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